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SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1897.

EIGHT PAGES.

AN ABSURD SUGGESTION.

The Spaniards now want the American Republics of the smaller order to unite in a zolyerin to defend themselves against what they term "the domineering methods of the United States," and to help Spain. This is all very well so far as the benefit to Spain is concerned, but it won't work even at that. The Mexican Financier, one of the leading bankers and commercialists' journal of Mexico, takes this view of the matter:

"None of the independent nations on this continent apprehend aggression or wrong from the United States. The idea that the Latin American Republics fear or distrust the United States is a fragment of the European brain. If, then, as we have shown, the internal elements or factors for a Spanish-American confederation are lacking, still more conspicuous is the absence of external motives. All this, however, furnishes no reason why the Republics of this continent, including the United States, should not seek to take common action as often as the solidarity of their commercial, financial, and political interests demands it. But the question is better left alone. The signal failure of the attempt in Central America, where, owing to special circumstances, it might have been expected to succeed, affords no encouragement."

This is a correct view of the matter. The United States neither dominates nor craves to dominate in the direction suggested. On the contrary, we have been eminently fair in all our dealings with the Latin-American Republics, and they have no need to fear or distrust the United States.

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST.

While there was not the slightest reason to expect a different response, there has been the liveliest satisfaction felt and expressed at the response the South has made in the face of the threatened war between Spain and the United States, observes the Washington Star.

Her people have spoken, it says, as with one voice, and that in pledge of devotion to the interests of the whole country. Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Texas are as loyal to the Stars and Stripes as ever they were to the Stars and Bars, and the ex-Confederates living within their borders will be among the first to enlist in case the Union needs defenders.

Our contemporary is of the opinion that if war comes, the South Atlantic coast is likely to feel the brunt of any attack that Spain may be able to make on this country. Spain's base of supplies must be Cuba, and as long as she holds the island she will necessarily have to direct her attacks at those points on our coast nearest Cuba. Her fighting ships could not carry a supply of coal sufficient to enable them to make a long cruise to the north and run the risk of delay. But from Norfolk down, every coast city of any consequence would require vigilant protection.

This would bring the North and the South together in circumstances of the closest union. In the old territory of the Confederacy the spectacle of a war waged for the reunited country under the old flag would present the perfect realization of all patriotic dreams. And that such a war would be waged with the utmost vigor admits of not the slightest doubt. North and South would alike be on their mettle, the one to honor the flag it had once opposed, and the other to honor and help defend the section now giving evidence of such thorough brotherhood and determined spirit.

It is not unlikely that Spain has been misled on this point. She has had from one source or another a good deal of misinformation about the United States. She may have calculated on some advantage from attacking a sec-

tion of the country represented to her as lukewarm in matters of national moment. But she will find if she clears her deck for action that an attack on any American seacoast city now, North or South, will meet with a reply representing to its warmth the fire and feeling and power of the whole country.

AMERICANISM IN THE SOUTH.

In no other section of this great country has the spirit of American patriotism found fuller or freer expression since the present war scarce than to the South. This is well illustrated in a statement by General Wilson, Chief of the Engineer Corps, U. S. A., at Tampa, a day or so since, who said:

"In the North there has been the greatest excitement ever since the Maine disaster, and the prospect of war has demoralized many branches of trade."

"In the South I find the people are confident that war will soon be declared, and all are ready for it, but there is little excitement, and every line of business appears to be moving along serenely. I find that the people almost to a man are ready to go to the front to defend the country. They look upon it as their duty, and while there is no great bluster and noise made about it, they are quietly preparing for what they believe will come."

As the Baltimore News asserts, whenever any great emergency confronts the country, the South produces men who measure up to the occasion. The fathers of the Constitution were mainly of Virginia's birth, and the Revolution was chiefly fought by Southern troops. Throughout the stretch of the country's history, Southern wisdom and courage are amply in evidence. The Southern people have never failed in magnanimity nor in cheerful submission to the inevitable. In every hour of danger or trial the South will be found the surest bulwark of the nation. The United States is now more firmly welded into a union of heart, of mind, of aspiration, than ever before. The Puritan and the Cavalier have at last merged their nobler traits. One supplements the other. The fabric of American liberty and American ideas is upheld with equal fidelity by both, and their combined efforts are making worthy Americans of the millions of adopted citizens of the country."

A DRY DOCK AT NEWPORT NEWS.

We agree with the Washington Post in the statement that it has been a matter of great regret, not unmixed with surprise, that no effort was made—at least no successful or even conspicuous effort—to secure for Newport News at least one of the five dry-docks contemplated in the new navy establishment. Newport News lies under the protection of Fort Monroe, within the Capes, and is near to Hampton Roads, the finest and most capacious harbor in the United States. There could be no more convenient point of refuge or concentration in case of war. It is easily accessible to vessels of any size at all tides, and, from every point of view, is the point at which a naval dry-dock could be most conveniently and profitably located. Just why Newport News was omitted from the scheme in question we do not venture to say. In fact, the matter baffles all speculation and conjecture. It is difficult to see how or on what ground an argument in favor of Newport News could have been rebutted.

It is gratifying, the New York Sun says, that the neglect of Congress is not likely to prove injurious to the public interests, and adds:

"C. B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Ship-building company, informed Secretary Ding of his purpose to begin the construction of the largest dry-dock in the world, capable when completed of accommodating at once two of the largest battleships or three small cruisers. The dock will be without an equal, and for length and breadth surpass all of the great docks of the British Government and others controlled by private parties. Work on this big basin begins next week, the site having already been selected. In length it will exceed 500 feet, or be at least 250 feet longer than the largest of the transatlantic liners. It will have a beam double that of almost any battleship, and when completed will have cost \$1,000,000."

"Mr. Orcutt says that he asks no Government assurance of patronage or bonus and that he does not expect any. Secretary Long, however, regards the building of such a gigantic dock as of the utmost importance to the navy, considering that Newport News will be protected by the defenses of Fort Monroe, and has water facilities permitting docking of the largest ships at any stage of the tide. Its proximity also to the Virginia Capes and Hampton Roads makes it especially valuable to the navy in war times when ships near by are captured. Mr. Orcutt says his dock will be completed within two years. It will be constructed of wood, with masonry entrances."

President Orcutt should have all encouragement possible in his undertaking, even though it is not asked.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

Is it not proper to ask the administration every morning whether it has Castle soap?—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

The man who wants to carry himself well before the community should never try to carry a jag.—New Orleans Picayune.

Lucretia has gone to Joliet penitentiary, where he can keep up his studies in chemistry by investigating the ingredients of prison fare.—Chicago Record.

The Saltwater Gazette has found out that forty-four different muscles are called into play whenever a man says "I'll take the same." It's the same when the smiles.—Chicago Times-Herald.

PERSONALS.

Dr. Margaret M. Trull Christie, who has been appointed by the India office to study the bubonic plague in the hospital for native women in Bombay, is a very young woman, and it is only two years since she got her degree from London university.

The wife of the late President Barrios, of Guatemala was Miss Alge Benton and was for some time an inmate of the Protestant orphan asylum of Mobile, Ala. She afterwards became an actress, and it was during her stage life that Barrios met her.

In the British House of Commons during a discussion having reference to the news of French aggression on Her Majesty's territory in West Africa, Dr. Tanner, anti-Parnellite member of Mid Cork, exclaimed "Vive la France!" Speaker Gully called him to order.

Dr. Andrew Sloan Draper, president of the University of Illinois, has declined the superintendency of the public schools of Greater New York, notwithstanding the fact that his salary very much larger than he is now receiving is attached to the position declined by him.

A fierce duel was fought on Friday near Vienna between Prince Philip, of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, husband of the Princess Louise Marie of Belgium, and Lieutenant Mittaich. They first fought with pistols and then with swords. The prince was wounded severely in the right arm.

Superintendent Charles E. Clark, of the Union Printers' Home, Colorado Springs, has mailed his resignation to President William B. Prescott, of the International Typographical Union, to take effect on June 1st next. The reason assigned for Mr. Clark's retirement is the ill health of his wife.

In a private letter from an American woman traveling in Europe occurs the following: "Last night we went to Monte Carlo and saw Lily Langtry in low-necked white satin and diamonds playing heavily and winning all the time. The Duke of Cambridge was watching her, and so was everybody else."

A STYLISH RUSSIAN COSTUME, WITH SEVEN-GORED SKIRT.

The undeveloped figures of the young are well suited to the Russian modes, which are more or less loose and pouchy and require to be belted and, for dressy wear, much decorated. Some recent additions to these Rus-



sian modes are extremely becoming and are accepted with favor by those who have slight figures. The mode illustrated, which was taken from the current number of *The Delineator*, presents some new features in the blouse, the sleeve caps and peplum being especially commended as giving grace and good style to the whole. The seven-gored skirt may be plaited or gathered at the back and is trimmed effectively at the bottom with velvet surmounted by braid fancifully disposed. The blouse, like all the Russian modes, closes at the left side and is attractively trimmed with braid, lace edging and velvet. Any combination admired may be arranged in this fashion.

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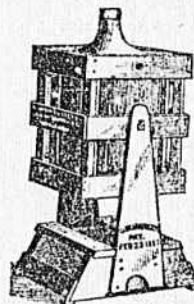
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